

of injection molding. By forming the backplate 110 and the mask 112 into a single component, the time and cost associated with manufacturing and assembly can be reduced. In addition, warranty concerns that can arise from attaching the backplate 110 to the mask 112 through the use of fasteners can be eliminated. In one embodiment, the backplate 110 and the mask 112 are comprised of ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), although a wide variety of materials may be used.

### **In the Claims**

Please substitute claims 1-7 with the following:

1. (Amended) An automotive dash instrument cluster comprising:  
an injected molded backplate;  
an injected molded mask, said injected molded mask and said injected molded backplate molded as a single component; and  
an injected molded dial molded directly [formed] onto said injected molded backplate.
2. (Amended) An automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 1, further comprising:  
an applique.
3. (Amended) An automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 1, further comprising:  
a lens.
4. (Amended) An automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 1, wherein said injected molded dial comprises clear polycarbonate.
5. (Amended) An automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 1, wherein said injected molded mask comprises acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene.
6. (Amended) An automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 1, wherein said injected molded backplate comprises acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene.

7. (Amended) An automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 1, further comprising:  
light emitting diode backlighting.

Kindly cancel claims 8-14

Please substitute claims 15-18 with the following:

15. (Amended) A method of producing an automotive dash instrument cluster comprising the steps of:

forming a backplate and a mask as a single component using a first shot of injection molding; and

forming a dial onto said backplate using a second shot of injection molding.

16. (Amended) A method of producing an automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 15, wherein said dial comprises clear polycarbonate.

17. (Amended) A method of producing an automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 15, wherein said mask comprises acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene.

18. (Amended) A method of producing an automotive dash instrument cluster as described in claim 15, wherein said backplate comprises acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene.